during the current cotton season 1991-92 at 116 lakh bales and the domestic consumption at 114.25 lakh bales. Government had released only 1 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi Cotton for export during the current season. The matter regarding the import of cotton is under examination. The carry over stock at the end of 1991-92 cotton season has been estimated at 28.39 lakh bales by CAB. However, it would depend upon the actual imports of cotton during the season, (b) A Statement is attached.

**Statement**

*Details of Domestic Prices and the Landed Prices of Comparable Foreign Cotton Varieties As on 28.2.1992*

| Indian Variety | Domestic price in Rs. per candy. | Comparable foreign variety | Landed price in Rs. per candy (excluding import duty) |
|---|---|---|---|
| J-34 RG | 12,300 | Pak 1505 13/32." | 11,725 |
| F.414 SG H-4 MP | 14,400 | Australian SLM 1-1/8" | 12,697 |
| Sanker-6 | 14,400 | Tanzanian AR No. 3 1 3/32" | 13,421 |
| DCH-32 | 22,700 | American PUMA 1-7/16" | 23,720 |

**Visit by Minister of State for Textiles to Prakasham and Guntur Districts of Andhra Pradesh**

2805. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of State for Textiles Visited Guntur and Prakasham districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether he received representations from Members of Parliament on behalf of cotton growers and handloom weavers; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken on the basis of the representations so received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main points mentioned in the representations related to liquidation of stocks lying with the weavers/Weaver Cooperative Societies, provision of funds under DRDA, IRDP, Gramodaya Schemes, etc. to the handloom weavers, protection of handloom sector from the powerlooms and man-made fibres, import of duty free cotton, clarification on Group Insurance Scheme, re-allocation of Janata Cloth to other districts, procurement of cloth by Government on conversion basis, etc. The actions taken on the representations include sanction of additional assistance to APCO for procurement of Cloth worth Rs. 2 crores, clarifications to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to treat the Group Insurance Scheme as an on-going Scheme, re-allocation of additional Janata Cloth target, proposal to import cotton, etc. Government has several on-going Schemes for the handloom sector like Market Development Assistance for handloom cloth, Janata Cloth Scheme, Project Package Scheme, organisation of Expos, special schemes for destitute weavers, etc.